REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully

requested.

By the present Preliminary Amendment the specification is amended to correct minor

informalities and to be in more proper format under United States practice. The changes to

the specification are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, and thus are not

deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

Further, claims 1-9 are canceled without prejudice and new claims 10-24 are

presented for examination. New claims 10-24 are deemed to be self-evident from the original

disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new

matter.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough

examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is

hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 06/04)

SNS:smi

Gregory J. Maier

Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar

Registration No. 34,423

Attorneys of Record

I:\ATTY\SNS\260942US-PR.DOC

11